

April 11, 1967

Mr. Gerald Leach  
3 Tanza Road  
London, N.W. 3, England

Dear Mr. Leach:

I recall the occasion of our last meeting with some pleasure, and I look forward to meeting you again. As you suggested, I have checked with Dr. Goodlin, but find that he will be unable to see you. My own preference would be to meet with you on Sunday, May 7. If you will give me a call when you arrive in this country we can work out the details. (Home phone: Area code 415, 321-2764).

As you know, I share your conviction that a calculated biological reconstruction of human nature is the most important message of the contemporary scene, and I have been gradually seeking out my own channels of expression in this field. One of these is a newspaper column for the Washington Post which is just beginning to be syndicated. I have sent a number of the past appearances to you under separate cover. I want particularly to call your attention to the remarks that are enclosed, since they tend to obsolete some of my conservatism in the article "Experimental Genetics and Human Evolution" ~~with~~ respect to the time scale for algeny. I would also have to remark that after a long lag, work on somatic cell genetics of the sort being developed by Henry Harris is beginning to accelerate with some striking research information. We will have a good chance to talk about this!

I wonder if it would be too much to ask to reopen a request that I made to you before, that is, to get some of the tapes of the broadcast that you built around your interviews with me and other American scientists. I would be particularly grateful to be able to have a copy, not only of my own remarks, but of Oppenheimer's discussion. I would be very happy to pay any out-of-pocket costs that would be involved in copying the tapes and, needless to say, I would not abuse the BBC's proprietary interest in them. However, I do not mean to put you to any extraordinary difficulty, and please disregard this request if it would mean that.

Cordially,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

P.S. Before you attribute advocacy to me, which is implied in your letter, I would want you to read the last paragraph of my article in the Bulletin. I might say, however, that I am beginning to reach a more positive position about this for purposes of answering some extremely important and otherwise inaccessible questions about the nature of genius. So perhaps we should think of going some experiments along these lines, just as we sometimes undertake quite radical

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say off the record, however, that I am beginning to reach a more positive position about this for purposes of answering some extremely important and otherwise inaccessible questions about the nature of genius. So perhaps we should think of doing some experiments along these lines, just as we sometimes undertake quite radical educational experiments.

J.L.